

Applicant: Werner RUNFT et al.
Docket No. R.304987
Preliminary Amdt.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, please add the following new paragraphs before paragraph [0001]:

- [0000.2] CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS
- [0000.4] This application is a 35 USC 371 application of PCT/EP 2004/052430 filed on October 4, 2004.
- [0000.6] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

- [0001] Prior Art **Field of the Invention**

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

- [0002] The invention is ~~based on a~~ directed to an improved machine for filling and closing ~~or sealing two-part capsules of the type defined in further detail in the preamble to claim 1.~~

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0002]:

- [0002.5] Description of the Prior Art

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

- [0003] Such a A machine is known in the industry and [[is]] used in the pharmaceutical field for filling capsules, comprising a lower capsule part and an upper capsule part, with a medication that is for instance in powdered form. The machine includes a plurality of work stations, through which capsules located on a delivery device pass; the delivery device for instance comprises a first feed wheel, provided with receptacles for the lower capsule parts, and a second feed wheel, provided with receptacles for the upper capsule parts.

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Page 3, please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] **Advantages of the Invention**

SUMMARY AND ADVANTAGES OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] The machine according to the invention for filling and sealing two-part capsules, in particular hard gelatin capsules, ~~having the characteristics of the preamble to claim 1,~~ in which machine the partitions are each an integrated component of a guide flap, have the advantage that the capsule expulsion station can have a considerably more simply produced housing than the capsule expulsion station of a machine of the prior art, since separator ribs which are complicated to manufacture and service partitions are no longer needed between the individual receptacles of the capsule delivery device.

Page 4, please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012] In a preferred embodiment of the machine of the invention, which is easy to assemble, the various guide flaps that have a shunt function are supported on a common pivot shaft. This makes it possible to slip the guide flaps as a packet onto the pivot shaft during assembly.

Page 5, please delete paragraph [0016].

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] Drawings **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

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Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] One exemplary embodiment of a machine according to the invention is described more fully herein below, in conjunction with the drawings, in which: shown schematically and in simplified form in the drawings and is described in further detail in the ensuing description:

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] Fig. 1 is a basic plan view on a capsule filling and closing machine according to the invention,

Page 7, please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] Description of the Exemplary Embodiment

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Page 10, please replace paragraph [0045] with the following amended paragraph:

[0045] The good side 25 includes a first plexiglass hood 27, which prevents an expulsion of the capsules C from the machine [[IX]] and leads to a collection container, not shown in further detail here, for perfect capsules C. The plexiglass hood 27, on its underside, forms a slideway which is aligned with a slideway 28 that is embodied on the outside of the housing body 15.

Please replace paragraph [0047] with the following amended paragraph:

[0047] The capsule expulsion station [[X]] XI has five guide flaps 24A and five further guide flaps 24B, which are supported on a common pivot shaft 31; the guide flaps 24A and

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the further guide flaps 24B are located in alternation in line with one another. The guide flaps 24A are assigned to the receptacles 14A of the carrier 13, and the further guide flaps 24B are assigned to the receptacles 14B of the carrier [[21]] 13.

Page 11, please replace paragraph [0050] with the following amended paragraph:

[0050] The guide flaps 24A and 24B each have two guideways, 33A and 34A; and 33B and 34B, respectively, which are formed by a rib 35A and 35B, respectively, oriented essentially parallel perpendicular to the pivot shaft 31. The guideways 33A and 33B serve to feed capsules C from the receptacles 14A and 14B to the good side 25. The further guideways 34A and 34B serve to feed capsules C from the receptacles 14A and 14B to the bad side 26.

Page 12, please replace paragraph [0053] with the following amended paragraph:

[0053] The spacing between two adjacent guide flaps 24A and 24B is defined by an annular shoulder or step 37A and 37B, respectively, a few tenths of a millimeter high, which surrounds a respective bearing bore 38A and 38B, by way of which the respective guide flap 24A and 24B is suspended from the pivot shaft 31.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0055]:

[0056] The foregoing relates to preferred exemplary embodiments of the invention, it being understood that other variants and embodiments thereof are possible within the spirit and scope of the invention, the latter being defined by the appended claims.